

WIT AND HUMOR

By

Fred Hovey Allen



HUMOR is derived from "humidity"—a moisture, metaphorically a juice of the mind, oozing forth to refresh and enrich wherever it falls. Wit is lightning; humor is heat. Wit is surprising; humor is insinuating. Wit brings dissimilar things together with a shock; humor is slow and often shy, and comes into the heart locked hand in hand with pathos.

Old Dr. Fuller's remark, that a Negro is "The image of God cut in ebony," was humorous; but its inversion by Horace Smith, that, "The slave driver was the image of the devil, cut in ivory," was witty. It was wit which flashed from the lips of a colored orator, when, addressing an audience composed entirely of white people, he said, "My friends, in this presence I feel like a huckleberry in a bowl of milk."

Was there ever a more gracious, tender or loving spirit than that of Thomas Hood? One must sympathize while he laughs at the faithless Sally Brown as she sees her lover carried off by the press gang:

"Says he, 'They have only taken him
To the tender ship, you see.'
'The tender ship!' said Sally Brown.
'What a hardship that must be!'"

"Now, Ben had sailed to many a place
That's underneath the world;
But in two years the ship came home,
And all her sails were furled."

"But when he called on Sally Brown,
To see how she got on,
He found she'd got another Ben,
Whose Christian name was John."

"O Sally Brown, O Sally Brown!
How could you serve me so?
I've met with many a breeze before,
But never such a blow!"

The wit is inimitable, even when poor Ben has died of grief. Still the fun goes on, for:

"They went and told the sexton,
And the sexton toll'd the bell."

Surprise Is the Essence

THE essence of the ludicrous consists in surprises; in unexpected turns of feeling and explosions of thought, as when some wit called Boyle, the celebrated philosopher, "The father of chemistry and the brother of the Earl of Cork"; or when a witty editor took for the motto of his penny journal, "The Price of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance; The Price of the Star Is Only One Cent."

Phillips said that when traveling in America he found a Republican "so furious against monarchs that he will not wear a crown in his hat."

Peter the Great, observing the number of lawyers in Westminster Hall, remarked, "I have only two lawyers in my whole Empire, and when I get home I intend to hang one of them."

Humor often hovers between laughter and tears.

Such, indeed, is the hero of Chamisso's story, as the elegant and lively translation by Thackeray presents it:

"There lived a sage in days of yore,
And he a handsome pigtail wore,
But wondered much and sorrowed more
Because it hung behind him."

"He mused upon this curious case,
And swore he'd change the pigtail's place,
And have it hanging at his face,
Not hanging there behind him."

"Says he, 'The mystery I've found:
I'll turn me round.' He turned him round;
But still it hung behind him."

"Then round and round, and out and in,
All day the puzzled sage did spin.
In vain, it mattered not a pin,
The pigtail hung behind him."

"And right and left, and round about,
And up and down, and in and out,
He turned; but still the pigtail stout
Hung steadily behind him."

"And though his efforts never slack,
And though he twist and twirl and tack,
Alas! still faithful to his back,
The pigtail hangs behind him."

How delicate the satire upon our rebellion against fortunes which cannot be changed! Once, preaching to a company of butchers, Spurgeon opened the service with the hymn beginning:

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain—

When told that twins had arrived under the

protection of the stork, he exclaimed with great feeling:

Nor more than others I deserve,
Yet God has given me more.

When a well known and hypocritical bore sent in word that "a servant of the Lord wished to speak to him," he replied, "Tell him I am engaged with his Master."

To a brother, noted for length and drought, who was to preach an official sermon in his pulpit, Henry Ward Beecher quietly said as they were seated upon the platform, "Right under your feet is a genuine Baptist pool. It is of orthodox dimensions and is half full of water. The spring is under my foot. If the preacher is dry and long, I touch the spring and let him in."

A busybody once said to Robert Hall, "I understand that you are going to marry Miss Blank?"—"I marry Miss Blank? I would as soon marry the eldest daughter of Beelzebub and go home to live with the old folks."

No Nonsense in the Pulpit

TO a solemn brother, who rebuked him for his vivacity, he replied, "You carry your nonsense into the pulpit; I keep mine out."

At last, when stricken with mental hallucinations, he did not lose his relish for a jest. Being asked by a whining, professional condoler, "What misfortune brought you here, Mr. Hall?" he replied, touching his head rather significantly, "What'll never bring you here, sir! Too much brain, sir! Too much brain."

"Dr. Parr," said a young student to the celebrated linguist, "let's you and I write a book."—"Very well," replied the doctor. "Put in it all that I know and all that you don't know, and we'll make a big one."

Once to a voluble and vain young man, who said in his presence, "I make it a point to believe nothing I cannot understand," Dr. Parr said, "Then, young man, your creed will be the shortest of any man's I know."

A young minister occupied the pulpit of old Dr. Emmons of Franklin, Massachusetts, one day. Fishing for a compliment at the dinner table, the youthful divine said inquiringly, "I hope I did not weary you with the length of my sermon this morning."—"No, nor with the breadth of it either," was the reply.

"I am afraid," said another, "that I did not get fairly into my subject to-day."—"That was because your subject never got into you."

A windy member of Parliament stopped in the middle of a speech to take a glass of water. "Mr. Speaker," said Sheridan, "I rise to a point of order." Everybody started, wondering what it could be. "What is it, sir?" asked the Speaker. "I think, sir," answered the wit, "it is out of order for a windmill to go by water."

A vain mathematician, attempting to subdue a rising young wit in his class room, asked, "If two pigs weigh twenty pounds, how much will a hog weigh?"—"If you will kindly step on the scales, I shall tell you in a minute," was the swift reply.

A son of the Emerald Isle, on landing at a wharf in New York, saw lying there a huge anchor. For the next three days he stood by watching the anchor. "What are you doing here?" asked a workman one day. "Sure, sor," was the reply, "I want to see the man who can handle that pick."

Hindu Epigrams

TIME wakes when others sleep; Time no one may escape; without rest and with even pace Time strides over all creatures.

Man's life is measured by a hundred years; half of these are passed in sleep, half the remainder in childhood and old age, and what are left we fulfil amid disease, separations, pain, and servitude. How can a man take pleasure in a life that resembles the bubble on a wave?

To love those who love you not, to shun those who love you, to make an enemy of the strong—this is to be a fool.

Not to begin an undertaking is the first sign of wisdom, and the second is to complete what has been begun.

He who sits after eating gets a pain; he who sleeps after eating gets comfort; he who walks after eating gets health; he who runs after eating runs to his death.

What a man desires and strives for, that he always obtains, unless in weariness he relaxes.

For five years a man shall treat his son as a prince, for ten years as a slave; but when a son reaches his sixteenth year, then shall a man treat him as a friend.

Under good fortune the heart of the great is as soft as a lotus bloom; under ill fortune, as hard as the mountain rock.

Everywhere good fortune attends the man whose heart is content: is not the earth covered with leather for one whose foot is in a shoe?

This "Self Working" Washer

Absolutely Works Itself.

It Keeps Servants Contented and Saves Wash-Woman's Wages.

Pay Us for It while it Saves for You

IF Wash Day is a horror
—if washwomen are hard to get
—and a nuisance when you get them
—if your servants won't do the washing
—nor have a washwoman 'round
—and laundries ruin all your clothes
—still do not be discouraged, for there is yet a way of escape.

The "1900 Self-Working Washer" works itself and pays for itself.

Water pressure, or an electric light current, will do a big week's wash with this washer, at a cost of from 2 to 4 cents for the work.

All you have to do is turn the water faucet or the electric key. The washer starts working at once and does every bit of the hard work.

You don't have to tend this washer.

It doesn't need anything but mere watching.

When a tubful of clothes is washed, a twist of your fingers switches the power to the wringer, and your clothes are wrung out without anyone touching a wringer crank.

All the work there is for you is turning a water faucet, an electric key, or a wringer switch, to turn the power on, or off, or switch it to the wringer. Only a twist of your fingers.

The power does all the rest.

The "Self-Working Washer" is as great an innovation to washing as automobiles are to locomotion—making mechanical power do the work human or animal force had to do before.

And this "1900 Self-Working Washer" won't wear out your clothes, nor tear them, rip seams, nor break nor tear off buttons.

"Tub rips" and "wash tears" are unknown with the "1900 Self-Working Washer."

Anything—from carpets to daintiest laces—can be washed spotlessly clean—not a thread broken, with the "1900 Self-Working Washer."

This is the only practical self-working washer ever invented.

And it will save you its cost many times over. Your table and bed linen, undergarments and other washables will last twice as long when washed this way.



30 Days' FREE Trial

Don't believe this. Prove it.

And—at our expense.

We will let you test a "1900 Self-Working Washer" a full month, entirely at our risk.

We will send one to any responsible party and prepay the freight. Send us no money unless you decide; after using it, to keep it.

Use it a month. Do four big washings with it.

And, then—if it isn't all we claim—if you don't find you can't afford to be without it—ship it back at our expense. Pay nothing. The trial is FREE.

If you keep it, as you will surely want to, when you see for yourself what it will do—it will save its own cost—and you can pay us, if you wish, out of what it saves for you. Pay us part each week—or each month—until the washer is paid for.

Ask today for our big new Self-Working Washer Book. We send it postpaid by return mail on receipt of your request, and it tells how a "1900 Self-Working Washer" saves you money and helps your household affairs run smoothly.

Write us at once. Address—1900 Washer Co., 3043 Henry St., Binghamton, N. Y. Or if you live in Canada, write my Canadian Branch, 355 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario.

The KING Air Rifle

Healthful Exercise for your Boy and Perfectly Harmless.

Compare its appearance with a man's rifle—it is just as "gun-like" and handsome; try it out in target practice—you'll find it accurate; let the boy bang it around (as boys will)—its sturdy strength withstands the hard knocks. It's the best air gun in the world. That's why.

Black Walnut Stock, Nickel Steel Barrel and Parts, Peep-Sight. Shoots darts for indoor target pleasure. Brings manly, wholesome joy to your boy's heart and lots of out-in-the-air exercise. No danger—uses no powder but shoots by compressed air.

King 500 Shot, an Automatic Magazine Rifle, shoots B. B. Shot, \$1.50.
King Single Shot, \$1.00; King Repeating, \$1.25—shoot B. B. Shot and Darts.

Sold by Hardware and Sporting Goods Dealers everywhere or delivered from factory anywhere in the U. S. on receipt of price. Ask for our Free Book for Boys.

THE MARKHAM AIR RIFLE CO., Largest Air Rifle Factory in the World Plymouth, Mich., U.S.A.

I WILL MAKE YOU PROSPEROUS

If you are honest and ambitious write me today. No matter where you live or what your occupation, I will teach you the Real Estate business by mail; appoint you Special Representative of my Company in your town; start you in a profitable business of your own, and help you make big money at once. Unusual opportunity for men without capital to become independent for life. Valuable book and full particulars free. Write today. Address nearest office.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE REALTY CO.
933 Maryland Building, Washington, D. C.
933 Athenaeum Building, Chicago, Illinois

X-RAY Stove Polish

Ask dealer for it

The brightest thing in stove polish ever made. Gives quick brilliant lustre and DOES NOT BURN OFF.

FREE SAMPLE Address Dept. S. Lamont, Corliss & Co. Agts., 78 Hudson St., N. Y.

DOUBLE WASHING QUICK

Half the time, half the work. 100 Pieces an Hour with the "Busy Bee" Washer. The machine with a record. No rubbing. No dirt left. AGENTS WANTED.

Exclusive territory. Busy Bee Washer Co., Box 101, Erie, Pa.

SOUVENIR POST CARDS

Send ten cents for full value in handsome cards and Catalog of American and Foreign Views, Comic, Leather, Birthday, Etc., and Post Card Albums at lowest prices. Our Easter Cards are the finest.

NATIONAL POST CARD CO., 700 Logan Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

FRENCH PICTORIAL STAMPS SENT FREE REQUEST

Collect Stamps for Amusement, 1907 List and Pocket Album 5c. Approval Sheets also sent 50¢ com.

NEW ENGLAND STAMP CO., 63 Washington Bldg. Boston, Mass.

SONG-POEMS

and music published ON ROYALTY. We write music and popularize.

POPULAR MUSIC PUBLISHING CO., 350 Enterprise Bldg., Chicago

16 COMIC POST CARDS 10c

Funniest cards ever printed; beautifully colored, no two alike and every one a corker. 16 cards, 10c; 48 cards, 25c. Big novelty catalog free.

DRAKE CARD CO., DEPT. 63, 539 VAN BUREN ST., CHICAGO.

WRITE A SONG for us to-day. It may be worth THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

HAYES MUSIC CO., 87 Star Bldg. Chicago

Print Your Own Cards

Circulars, books, newspaper. Press 5c. Large size, \$18. Money saver, maker. All easy, printed rules. Write factory for catalog, presses, type, paper, cards.

The Press Co., Meriden, Conn.

TRY NULIFE With My Guarantee

"NULIFE" Compels Deep Breathing

Straightens round shoulders, and creates a perfect figure for man, woman and child. Expands the chest from 3 to 6 inches, and increases your height proportionately.

NULIFE dispels sick, nauseating and tired feeling, arising from congested lungs, due to round shoulders and sunken chest, which causes improper breathing. This stooped position forces the entire weight of the body on the abdomen, which properly should be supported by the spine and hips.

NULIFE instantly corrects and prevents all ailments due to these improper causes, and inspires you with vigor and permanent good health.

NULIFE is made of linen, washable and is self-lacing. You simply fasten the belt around the waist and **NULIFE** does the rest.

PROF. CHAS. MUNTER, Dept. 24.

Makes children stand, sit and grow erect.

TEN DAYS TRIAL FREE

Send for **NULIFE** today and wear it ten days at my risk. Money cheerfully refunded if, after ten days' trial, you are willing to part with it.

23 West 45th Street, NEW YORK.